

Borough of Tewkesbury



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

for the Year 1972

W. A. KNOX, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE 1972

Chairman: Councillor Dr. Mrs. A.M. Evans.
Vice-Chairman: Councillor J.T. Simpson.
Members: The Worshipful the Mayor of Tewkesbury
(Councillor Mrs. M.R. Shephard)
Aldermen: Mr. P.K. Holding, F.H. Knight,
M.B.E., G.P. Long,
H.O. Workman.
Councillors: R.J. Bourton, C. Burd,
B. Devereux, D.R. Graham,
J.R. Griffiths, F.J.O. Martin,
S. Walkley, L.A. Webber,
Mrs. G.M. Workman.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

W.A. KNOX, M.B.,Ch.B., B.A.O. D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health to Tewkesbury
Borough, the Urban Districts of Charlton
Kings and Cirencester, and the Rural
Districts of Cheltenham, Cirencester,
North Cotswold, Northleach, and Tetbury,
and County Divisional Medical Officer of
Health for the Cotswold United Districts.
J.H. TURNER, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector,
Housing Manager,
Petroleum Officer,
Shops Acts Inspector.
B.W. LEE, M.B.Ch.A., M.R.S.H.,
Technical Assistant.



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
TEWKESBURY, GLOS.

December, 1973.

To the Mayor,

Aldermen and Councillors of the

Borough of Tewkesbury

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1972.

The Report is prepared in compliance with the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959 and Circular 1/73 of the Department of Health and Social Security.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer, Mr. F. Broxton, and to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. J.H. Turner, for sections of the Report contributed by them.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General is 9,010, an annual increase of 230 as compared with a decrease of 140 in the previous year.

In general the health statistics are favourable to the Borough. The Birth Rate showed a decrease to 18.4 per 1,000 population, but it is higher than the national and county averages. The Death Rate 14.0 per 1,000 population compares with 10.3 for the county, and 12.1 for the country as a whole. Five infants died under one year of age; the infantile mortality averaging 30 such deaths per 1,000 live births, as compared with the national average of 17.0.

Except for fifty five cases of infective hepatitis, the incidence of notifiable infectious disease was extremely light due to the success of campaigns for immunisation and vaccination. The level of protection needs to be maintained particularly in respect of the recently introduced vaccination against Measles.

I am glad to have this opportunity to thank the Mayor, the Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committee, and members of the Council for their valuable support and my colleagues for their help and co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

W.A. KNOX

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH

Area (in acres): 2,770 (including 96 acres of water).

Population (Registrar General's estimate of Home
Population mid-1972) 9,010.

Number of inhabited houses (31st December, 1972)
according to the rate book: 3,080.

Sum represented by a penny rate £3,113.

Rateable Value: £304,731.

General Rate: 1971-1972: 92p.

(County Precept: 66p.)

Social Conditions and Chief Industries

Tewkesbury attracts a considerable number of tourists because of its character, historical associations, and architectural features; especially the Abbey and the Rivers Severn and Avon.

The Borough Council have augmented the amenities of the Town by providing a sports ground, and pitch and putt course. New swimming baths have been provided, comprising a main pool, a learners pool and sauna bath.

Traditional occupations are found in the flourishing catering trade, and in the flour milling and boat building industries. Many people now find employment in light engineering factories. The development of the Council's Industrial Estate at Newtown increases opportunities for employment and productivity.

The benefit to the Town from completion of the M.5. extension has been twofold. The Town Centre has been relieved of much heavy traffic and communications generally improved, as the access point to the motorway is within 1 mile of the Town Centre.

Employment

Mr. J.F. Yates, Manager of the local Employment Exchange, has kindly supplied the following report:-

The year started with the relatively high unemployment percentage of 4.5 (227 people). The pattern then followed the normal seasonal trend of decreasing until it reached the rate of 2.7% in June. For the remainder of the year, and against the usual trend, the rate remained more or less constant and produced a figure of 2.6% in December (145 people). This compared favourably with the regional figure of 3.2% and the national figure of 3.3%.

The number of vacancies notified (total 761) and consequently the number of people placed in employment (384) were both higher than 1971. In addition the number of applicants for Government Training Courses, mainly in craft subjects, increased by 25% following a considerable expansion in training facilities. Generally, the situation at the end of the year was one of buoyancy. The economic measures taken by the Government were undoubtedly having an appreciable affect on industry and for the first time in many years a labour stortage seemed very likely.

VITAL STATISTICS

These statistics give particulars of the births and deaths in the Borough, together with certain rates which are compared, where possible, with those for England and Wales.

A detailed list of the causes of death will be found in Table 1 on page 6.

1. Live Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number: Legitimate	152	92	60
Illegitimate	14	6	8
	<u>166</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>68</u>
Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	..		18.4
Area comparability factor (Births)	..	..	.89
Local adjusted birth rate	..	..	16.4
Illegitimate Live Births (percentage of total live births)	..	..	8.0

2. Still Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number: Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			6
Total live and still births	..	..	167

3. Infant Deaths

(i) Deaths of Infants under 1 year:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number: Legitimate	4	3	1
Illegitimate	1	1	-
	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>

(ii) Neo-natal Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number: Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	1	1	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>

(iii) Early Neo-natal deaths, Deaths of Infants under 1 week:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number: Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	1	1	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

4. Infant Mortality Rates

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total live births	30.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	26.0
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	71.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	24.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) ..	18.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	24.0
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	None
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil

5. Deaths

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number:	126	60	66
Death Rate per 1,000 population	..		14.0
Area Comparability factor (deaths)	..		.93
Local adjusted death rate ..	..		13.0

Area Comparability Factor is prepared by the Registrar General and makes allowance for the age distribution in Tewkesbury as compared with the national average.

TABLES OF COMPARISON

Birth, Death, and Infantile Mortality Rates in the Borough for the past six years

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Birth Rate	23.6	20.8	19.3	17.2	21.6	18.4
Death Rate	9.1	10.6	10.6	10.1	10.7	14.0
Infantile Mortality Rate	21.0	6.0	18.0	13.0	11.0	30.0

Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for England and Wales etc. for 1972

	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>County of Gloucester</u>	<u>Tewkesbury</u>
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	14.8	15.0	18.4
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)	12.0	9.0	6.0
Infantile Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births)	17.0	17.0	30.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 1 month)	12.0	12.0	24.0
Early Neo-natal mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	10.0	10.0	18.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	22.0	18.6	24.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	12.1	10.5	14.0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH IN 1972

Table 1 gives the causes of death in the Borough classified under the abbreviated list (B list) of International Statistical Classifications:-

Table 1

	Causes of Death	Male	Female
B19 (2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	1
B19 (4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	3	2
B19 (6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	5	2
B19 (7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	5
B19 (8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2
B19 (9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-
B19(10)	Leukaemia	-	1
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	-	6
B23	Anaemias	1	-
B46(5)	Other Disease of Nervious System	1	-
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	-
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	18	5
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	3	5
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	5	6
B46 (6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	9
B32	Pneumonia	9	7
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	-
B46 (7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1
B35	Appendicitis	1	-
B46 (8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	-
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1
B46 (9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1
B46(10)	Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	1	1
B42	Congenital Anomalies	1	2
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	-
B44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	8
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-
BE48	All other Accidents	-	1
	Total	60	66

EXPLANATORY NOTE: + Neoplasm equals Cancer

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL
OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Table 2, on page 8 shows the incidence of notifiable disease by age groups.

Diphtheria Immunisation

State of protection of children against diphtheria:-

Born in year:	1972	1971	1970
Numbers and percentage	10 (5%)	161 (80%)	176 (89%)

The state of immunisation against diphtheria continues to be most satisfactory. Nearly every child is immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. To obtain maximum protection; three injections are given at four months, six months, and one year of age, and a booster injection before the child begins schooling. Parents, doctors and nurses and the Child Health Clinic are to be congratulated on the very high rate of immunisation achieved.

Vaccination against Smallpox

State of protection of children against smallpox:-

Born in year:	1972	1971	1970
Numbers and percentage	Nil (0%)	19 (9%)	36 (18%)

The Department of Health and Social Security no longer recommend general vaccination, but parents who require this can receive it in the child's second year.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

Vaccination against poliomyelitis is successful and no case of this disease occurred, but the need to maintain a high level of vaccination is all important.

Tuberculosis

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis; the register contains the names of nine persons. One new case was notified during the year.

Tuberculosis might be eradicated if full use were made of the preventive measures such as Mass Radiography, B.C.G. Vaccination, and thorough investigation of contacts and source of infection. The Borough Council plays its part in giving priority to rehousing tuberculous persons.

Tuberculosis After-Care

A Joint After-Care Committee serves the Borough and the Rural District of Gloucester.

Funds are dependent on voluntary subscriptions. So far, no case in need has been refused assistance.

Table 2:
Notification of Infectious Diseases in 1972 by Age Groups

Disease	Age	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over	Age N.K.	Total
Measles		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Infective Jaundice		-	-	-	-	1	23	5	7	17	2	55
T.B. (Resp.)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total		-	1	-	1	1	23	5	7	18	2	58

TUBERCULOSIS

Table 3: New In-Transfer Cases, Deaths and Number Remaining on the Register on 31st December, 1972.

	Respiratory		Meninges/C.N.S.		Other Forms		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
New Cases	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Removed from Register 'Cured'	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
On Register 31.12.72.	6	3	..	..	..	..	9

CANCER

9 men and 19 women died of cancer compared with 7 men and 6 women the previous year.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Oesophagus	-	1
Intestine	3	2
Lung, bronchus	5	2
Breast	-	5
Uterus	-	2
Prostate	1	-
Other	-	7

5 men and 2 women died of lung cancer during the year compared with 5 men and 1 women in 1971.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

Laboratory Services

The examination of pathological specimens, and the bacteriological examination of milk, ice-cream and water is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Gloucester Royal Hospital. There is no charge for this work.

Chemical analyses of water and sewage samples taken by the Public Health Inspector are carried out by the City Analyst, Worcester. This laboratory is readily accessible.

Water analyses for the North West Gloucestershire Water Board works are carried out by the Chemist to the Board.

Hospitals

Infectious disease cases are admitted to Gloucester City Isolation Hospital at Over (Gloucester, Stroud and Forest Hospital Management Committee).

Ambulance Facilities

The County Council have an Ambulance Station in Oldbury Road with an establishment of four full-time drivers.

Nursing in the Home

Four District Nurses appointed by the County Health Committee give a midwifery and general nursing service in the Borough and in the neighbouring parishes of Ashchurch, Tredington and Twynning.

Home Help Service

The Home Help Service is organised by the Area Health Sub-Committee of the County Council; and is provided where the need for domestic help is recommended by the family doctor.

National Assistance Acts 1948 and 1951

Under these Acts, the Council have authorised the Medical Officer of Health to arrange, if need be, for the compulsory removal to hospital or to residential hostel, of any person who is aged, sick and incapacitated, is living in insanitary conditions, is unable to care for himself and is not receiving proper care and attention from other people.

No application was made to the Court during the year, the Home Help Service being able to render sufficient assistance where necessary to enable elderly people, especially those living alone, to carry on in their own homes.

Mothers' Club

A Mothers' Club open to all mothers whose children are not over school age meets each month at the Clinic, Church Street. The Club is popular and successful.

Tewkesbury Old People's Welfare Committee

The Elizabeth Wyatt House, Barton Road, is this Committee's headquarters. The Golden Hour Club meet every Wednesday from 2.30 - 5 p.m., with a membership of about 150. Average attendance is over 100. The alternate Wednesday afternoon is run as a social afternoon. Coffee is served on Friday mornings from 10.a.m. to 12 noon, tea in the afternoon, also certain foods are available during these afternoon sessions. Wheel-chairs are available at 25p per week for non-members and 5p. per week from members. A sales table at the Club meeting, raffles, and an annual sale of work are valuable sources of revenue. Extertainment is provided on alternate Wednesdays', arranged by the President. Chiropody is now carried out at the home of the Chropodist in Church Street, through the Gloucestershire County Council Scheme.

Chiropody Service

The chiropody service is operated under the Gloucestershire County Council National Health Scheme at a cost of 15p. per treatment. Sessions are held at 22, Church Street, Tewkesbury.

Transport for physically handicapped persons in the Borough to attend for treatment is provided by the Ambulance Service or by the Tewkesbury Old People's Welfare Committee.

The Chiropodist devotes four full day sessions per calendar month to work in Tewkesbury and domiciliary visits are arranged as necessary.

Health Visiting

Four health visitors are employed by the County Council for Tewkesbury and the neighbouring parishes. They operate from the Clinic in Church Street. Their main functions are to co-operate with the doctors practising in the area - for the prevention of disease and to provide health education by example in the home and at the Clinic, for families under their care.

Family Social Worker

The Social Services Department employ a family social worker in the Borough and adjacent districts, giving advice, encouragement and where necessary, practical demonstrations in the home.

Families at Risk

A "Prevention of Homelessness" Scheme has been agreed between the County Council and the Borough Council. The Council may refer families for inclusion in this scheme when the rent arrears amount to £10 or four weeks rent. In cases so referred the County Council agrees to guarantee 85% of the arrears and supervision of the family is undertaken by the County Council Social Welfare Officer. 33 families were referred during the year.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Child Health Clinic

The Child Health Clinic meets each Thursday at the Clinic, Church Street, between 2.30 and 4 p.m. It is run with commendable success by the ladies of the voluntary Committee. The centre is under the general administration of the Area Health Sub-Committee of the County Council. This Committee includes two members of the Borough Council.

Table 4 records the number of sessions and attendance at the Centre during the year.

Table 4:

52 Medical Sessions

67 children born in 1972 attended 674 times					
139	"	"	1971	"	531
151	"	"	1967/70	"	133
Total No. of attendance				1,338	"

Tewkesbury Clinic, Church Street

The Clinic opens as follows:-

Relaxation Classes:	Weekly, Tuesdays.
Orthopaedic Clinic:	Weekly Tuesday mornings (9 - 1 p.m.) Attended by an Orthopaedic sister.
Speech Therapy Clinic:	Weekly Fridays (from 10.30 a.m.)
Dental Clinic:	Monday mornings.
Welfare Foods:	Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings (9-12 noon).
Mothers' Club:	7.30 p.m. second Tuesday each month.
Child Health Clinic:	Thursday afternoons (2.30 - 4 p.m.).
Health Visitors:	Monday to Friday (9 - 10 a.m.).
Marriage Guidance Council:	By Appointment.
Family Planning Clinic:	First Thursday each month (6.30 - 8 p.m.).

Tewkesbury Hospital, Barton Road

Chest Clinic:	Fortnightly, Monday afternoons attended by Chest Physician.
G.S. Clinic:	Tuesday mornings.
Medical Clinic:	Friday mornings.
Gynaecology Clinic:	First and third Wednesday afternoons.
Orthopaedic Clinic:	Second, third and fourth Monday mornings.
Ophthalmic Clinic:	Friday mornings.
General Surgical:	Friday afternoons.
Orthoptic Clinic:	Thursday and Friday mornings.
Psychiatric Clinic:	Thursday afternoons.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE BOROUGH

WATER SUPPLY

The Chief Chemist and Bacteriologist to the Board (T.W. Brandon, Esq., B.Sc. (Hons.) F.R.I.C., A.M.I.W.P.C., P.A.I.W.E., has kindly supplied the following report:-

Water is supplied in the Borough by the North West Gloucestershire Water Board. The supply is derived from the Mythe Works, where water is abstracted from the River Severn and subjected to rigorous treatment and quality control.

This up-to-date treatment includes:-

- Biological pre-treatment
- Break-point pre-chlorination
- Coagulation with aluminium sulphate
- Sedimentation
- Rapid gravity sand filtration
- Secondary chlorination
- pH correction with lime
- Sulphonation

Quality control of the supply is maintained from the Board's laboratories at Tewkesbury, details of which are as follows:-

Mythe Treatment Works

Bacteriological examinations

Raw water,	number of samples	examined	..	101
" "	" "	satisfactory	.	0
Pre-treated water	" "	examined	..	101
" " "	" "	satisfactory	.	0
After sedimentation	" "	examined	..	104
" "	" "	satisfactory	.	99
After filtration	" "	examined	..	205
" "	" "	satisfactory	.	203
Final water,	" "	examined	..	820
" "	" "	satisfactory	.	817 = 99.6%

The degree of bacterial pollution of the untreated river water has continued to be quite marked.

During the year 6,548 chemical analyses and 257 biological examinations were carried out for the purpose of treatment and quality control.

Distribution

Random bacteriological sampling from consumers' premises was carried out; of 48 samples examined during the year 45 were of excellent quality; 3 sub-standard results were cleared on re-examination.

Only 11 consumer complaints were received during the year; 6 referred to taste and/or odour, 4 to discoloured water and 1 to fungal growth on an anti-splash device.

Chemical Characteristics - 1972

		<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Minimum</u>
Total hardness	mg/1 CaCO	288	200	106
Temporary hardness	" " 3	162	111	34
Fluoride	" "	0.33	0.21	0.14

Fluoride is present from natural sources; fluoridation is not practised in the Board's area.

The supply does not show any plumbo solvent action.

Radioactive Contamination

The level of artificial radioactivity has remained extremely low in the water supply and is virtually undetectable. Similar monitoring of rainwater contamination has given generally quite low levels, although small increases following French and Chinese explosions were found.

Water Supplies in the Borough

In accordance with the requirement of the Department of Health and Social Security, Table 5 shows the water supplies, number of houses and population on the 31st December, 1972.

Table 5:

<u>No. of houses</u>	<u>Served by</u>	<u>Population</u>
3,080	Mains Supply	9,010

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SURVEYOR

(F. Broxton, Esq., C. Eng., F.I.Mun.E., A.R.I.C.S.)

Sewers and Sewerage

The Water Pollution Control Works Manager commenced his duties on 1st January, 1972. The extensions to the works were completed and commenced accepting sewage for commissioning trials at the beginning of August. These extensions include the provision of new balancing tanks, inlet arrangements for dividing the flow between the old filter plant and the new Lubeck arrangements, and additional storm tanks, all in the south-east area of the site. From here the flow to the new plant, which is limited to a maximum of 1.5 million gallons per day (3 times the design dry weather flow), is syphoned to the northern part of the site and passes through the preaeration, primary settling, aeration and final settling tanks, before joining the discharge from the old filter plant to the Mill Avon. As well as these units, which are provided in duplicate, a compressor house, sludge pumping station and thickening tank, and an administration building, including a mess room and laboratory, have been provided under the main construction contract.

Neckar Water Engineering Limited have supplied and erected the mechanical plant and air pipework under a separate contract. Five compressors of various capacities can be used in any combination to supply through pipework in the floor ducts of the compressor house to the preaeration and aeration tank diffusers, and to airlifts in the aeration tanks and final tanks. The compressor house also contains the main switchgear with a mimic diagram for displaying the operation of the works a spray pump and sludge surplus pumps for returning mixed liquor from the aeration tanks to the inlet Lubeck Plant. The sludge pumphouse contains recirculation pumps for returning the primary sludge to the preaeration tanks and also discharging the surplus to the thickening tank. A separate sludge pump is provided for delivering the sludge to the drying beds. The Administration Block incorporates the Manager's office, laboratory and mess room with information regarding flows and works operation displayed in the former. The Site works include roads, paths, pipelines, manholes, cables, and site lighting, and there is adequate space on the site for duplication of the Lubeck plant if required in the future.

The works were officially opened by the Rt. Hon. Peter Walker, M.B.E., M.P. Secretary of State for the Environment on 11th September, 1972.

The design criteria is, existing works - 223,000 g.p.d. and the new works - 500,000 g.p.d.

In April a contract was approved for a new pump house at Newtown and a new pumping main from there to the works. This was a joint undertaking with Cheltenham Rural District Council who were providing a new pumping station at Northway Lane with a pumping main from there to the works.

In June consent was given by the Severn River Authority for a new outlet from the Newtown Pumping Station into the Tirlle Brook. This outlet to be used solely for the discharge of screened sewage which by reason of mains power failure only, cannot be conveyed to the sewage works for treatment.

The work of laying the new pumping mains and the construction of the pumping station was well in hand at the end of the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The new refuse vehicle, a 50 cu.yd. Compressload, was delivered in October. The amount of refuse from premises continued to increase, particularly when the supermarkets came into operation. Tipping was carried out at Elmstone Hardwicke until nearly the end of the year when the tip at Stoke Orchard was reopened.

In January a scheme whereby twelve builders skips, each having a 6 cu.yd. capacity, were placed on various sites around the town was brought into operation so that residents could put in bulky items and garden refuse which was not normally collected by the refuse operatives. These skips were put out for one day once every two months. This service proved very effective, and although on the first two or three occasions they would not hold all the material and there was almost as much again on the ground, they now seem to be adequate. It has been so successful that in 1973 the Council are considering putting them out one a month during the summer period.

Public Conveniences

The new toilets in Gander Lane were opened in December of last year. These comprise, for the ladies 3 w.c's. and 2 wash-basins, while in the men's section there are 3 urinals, 2 w.c's. and one wash basin.

In August the new toiletblock in the Oldbury Road was opened and the temporary toilet accommodation provided by the developers was demolished. The facilities in the new block are, for men, 5 w.c.'s., 12 urinals and 3 wash-basins, and in the ladies, 9 w.c's. and 3 washbasins. Hot air dryers are provided, one in each section, and a cleaners cubicle is also provided.

There are now five public conveniences in the town and if arrangements could be made sometime to put one towards the eastern end of Barton Street, the town area would be adequately provided for.

Street Cleansing

All the roads in the Borough were swept at regular intervals. The main streets being done one per day. Other main routes three times per week, and all other streets once per week. This is done by the mechanical sweeper, and in addition the main streets are also swept manually when required during the day. Alleyways are also swept once per week.

The mechanical sweeper also is hired to the Gloucestershire County Council for approximately one and a half days per week to sweep the roads immediately outside the Borough.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND
HOUSING MANAGER

(J.H. Turner, Esq., F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.)

Public Health Department,

Tewkesbury.

December, 1973.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the environmental health section of the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for 1972.

Basically, environmental health work produces very little in the way of spectacular achievement, but is essentially a service which strives to produce gradual improvements in the environment particularly in the housing and food aspects.

1972 produced the usual type of public health problems which were generally remedied successfully.

The appearance of a large contingent of about 20 tinker families on the disused railway station site in June and July was most unwelcome. As well as causing annoyance to occupiers of houses adjoining and damage to gardens and allotments, the site was rapidly transformed into a filthy rubbish dump.

The Council decided to prosecute the County Council for permitting the site to be used as a caravan site, but the case was dismissed. As usually happens, the Council workmen were left with the task of clearing up the filth when the site was finally vacated.

Whilst not wishing to comment on the policy which allows entry to this country of these families, it is inevitable that they create distress to local inhabitants and additional work for local authorities.

Information was collected during the year in order to make a return to the Department of the Environment on the condition of the housing stock in the Borough. It was found that the number of unfit dwellings had been reduced from over 200 in the early 1960's to 55. In addition over two hundred dwellings had been improved.

Work proceeded during the year towards re-organisation of Local Government, and some aspects of environmental health were rationalised and arrangement made for improved co-operation between constituent authorities in the exchange and use of staff.

Finally, may I express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee for the consideration given to my reports during the year. I should also like to thank the Medical Officer of Health, and the Chief and other Officers of the Council for their help and co-operation so generously given.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J.H. TURNER

Chief Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Summary of visits and inspections

Table 6

Dwelling Houses:-

Public Health Acts	72
Housing Acts	101
Food Premises	53
Milk and Dairies	2
Factories	26
Pest Control	47
Drainage and Sewerage	17
Caravans and Sites	7
Water Supplies & Sampling	4
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning	62
Offices, Shops	435
Petroleum Acts	22
Noise Abatement	6
Air Pollution	4
Miscellaneous	62
Total:	<u>920</u>

HOUSING MANAGEMENT INSPECTIONS

869 visits were made in connection with tenancy allocations, transfers, exchanges, lodgers, general welfare and management matters.

HOUSING

New Dwellings erected during 1972

(a) By the Local Authority:			
(i) Permanent Non-traditional	..	..	-
(ii) Permanent traditional	..	..	-
(b) By other authorities (Housing Associations)	..	..	46
(c) Private enterprise	..	..	85
		Total	<u>131</u>

Dwellings under construction for the Council at 31.12.72.

None.

Dwellings under construction by Housing Associations for renting

97 flats and houses for Jephson Housing Association.

Number of Dwellings controlled or owned by the Council at 31.12.72.

(i) Under the various Housing Acts	..	..	1054
(ii) Corporate property	..	..	23
		Total	<u>1077</u>

Included in (i) above are 104 dwellings (flats and bungalows) specifically allocated to elderly persons. 94 of these are in Warden supervised schemes and have inter-communication systems or bell systems connected to the Wardens' dwellings.

Unfit Dwellings

Housing Act 1957 - Part 2 - Individual Unfit Dwellings

Undertakings accepted (Section 16):	-
Closing orders made (Section 17):	-
Demolition orders made (Section 17):	-
Houses demolished following demolition orders:	-
Closing Orders (Section 18):	-
Dwellings rendered fit by owners after	
(a) informal notice:	8
(b) formal notice:	-
Dwellings in respect of which Closing Order revoked (Section 27)	-
Dwellings in respect of which Demolition Order revoked (Section 24)	-

Housing Act 1957 - Part 3 - Clearance Areas

Represented during the year:- Nil

Action taken during the year:-

Houses demolished by local authority or owners -	
(a) Unfit	-
(b) Others	-
Persons displaced	Nil
Families displaced	Nil

Improvement Grants

Standard Grants

1.	<u>Number of applications</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Refused</u>
	(a) From owner/occupiers	2	-
	(b) Other	-	-
2.	Number of dwellings improved -	5	
3.	Amount paid in grants £1,584.		
4.	Amenities provided at dwellings		
	(a) (i) Fixed bath	5	
	(a) (ii) Shower	-	
	(b) Wash-hand basin	5	
	(c) Hot water supply (to any fitting)	5	
	(d) Water closet		
	(i) in the dwelling		
	(ii) accessible from the dwelling	-	
	(e) Sink	-	

Discretionary Grants

1.	Number of applications approved	<u>Conversions</u> *	<u>Improvements</u>
	(a) from owner/occupiers	2	14
	(b) from landlords	9	1

* The number of dwellings shown is the number resulting after conversion.

2. Number of dwellings provided on completion of improvements or conversion. 23
3. Amount paid in grants £16,070.

RENT ACTS

No formal action was necessary during the year under the provisions of these Acts, although several enquirers were referred to the Rent Officer. No cases of harassment of tenants were brought to my attention.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no premises in the Borough which come within the definition of common lodging houses.

HOUSING MANAGEMENT

The following table shows the numbers of applicants on the waiting list as the 31st December, 1972.

Type of accommodation required	No. of Applications
Old People's accommodation	45
1 Bedroom accommodation	26
2 Bedroom accommodation	117
3 Bedroom accommodation	29
4 Bedroom accommodation	5
Total:	222

The number of applicants on the waiting list at 31st December, 1972, showed an increase on the previous year.

54 applicants were rehoused in relets during the year, and 47 tenants were transferred to other accommodation more suited to the needs of their family. 7 mutual exchanges were also allowed. The Council's industrial nominee scheme continued to operate, and 5 tenancies were allocated to local industry.

Due to the fact that no new housing was constructed during the year, the rate of rehousing of applicants was considerably decreased. The number of applicants on the waiting list increased, and more than 50% of applicants were engaged couples or newly married. Where in the past seven years the Council have been able to give this category of applicant reasonable hope of rehousing, because of a continuing building programme, it is apparent now that the waiting time for rehousing will be considerably increased.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD

Table 7 gives details of the type of food premises in the Borough which are subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970 and the number of inspections carried out.

Table 7:

Type of Trade	NO.	Inspection	fitted to comply with Reg.16	No. of premises to which Reg. 19 applies	fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Catering;					
Restaurants, cafes, snack bars.	22	15	22	22	22
School canteens & kitchens.	9	3	9	9	9
Works canteens.	3	3	3	3	3
Guest houses.	6	6	6	6	6
Clubs.	2	1	2	2	2
Licensed premises.	17	12	17	17	17
Unlicensed hotels.	1	2	1	1	1
Butchers.	10	4	10	10	10
Confectioners.	4	1	4	4	4
Grocers & Greengrocers.	23	4	23	23	23
Sweet Shops.	9	-	9	9	9
Fried Fish.	2	1	2	2	2
Wet Fish.	1	-	1	1	1
Food processing.	2	1	2	2	2
Chemists.	3	-	3	-	-
TOTAL	114	53	114	111	111

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

Food Hygiene and Control

All food establishments in the Borough are equipped with the basic facilities necessary to comply with Food Hygiene Regulations and the standard of food hygiene generally is good. It has been necessary at several retail food premises to insist on more strict attention to stock control and rotation. The education of food handlers towards improving standards of hygiene is a gradual process. It is unfortunate that the catering trade particularly is subject to frequent changes of staff so that it is difficult to build up a continuing advisory relationship, which is necessary if progress is to be achieved.

DETAILS OF UNSOUND FOOD REJECTED OR CONDEMNED

Food traders who have doubts about the soundness of food usually contact the Department for advice.

Any food found to be unsound is voluntarily surrendered by the trader and is disposed of so as to ensure that it will not be used for human consumption. The following table lists food surrendered or condemned during the year.

Meat at retail premises (carcase meat)	64 lb.
Wet Fish	25 lb.
Canned meats	116 lb.
Canned fruit	87 lb.
Canned vegetables	226 lb.
Other foods	87 lb.
Total	<u>605 lb.</u>

COMPLAINTS REGARDING FOOD

<u>Food</u>	<u>Reason for Complaint</u>	<u>Action</u>
Cheese (served as part of meal in hotel).	Peculiar taste.	Analyst reported cheese fit for human consumption.
Pork pie (vending machine).	Mouldy.	Advice given re rotation of stock.
Pears.	Black condition.	Public Analyst reported can to be at least five years old. Importers informed.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

ADULTERATION AND QUALITY

The sampling of food and drugs to check compositional standards and quality and to detect adulteration, abstraction, substitution and false or misleading descriptions, is carried out in the Borough by the County Council's Weights and Measures Inspectorate. The following table has been abstracted from information kindly supplied by the Chief Weights and Measures Inspector.

<u>ARTICLE</u>	<u>No. of samples</u>		<u>Result</u>	
	<u>Formal</u>	<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Not Genuine</u>	
Milks	9	9	-	
Milks Channel Islands	5	5	-	
White Stilton Cheese	1	1	-	
Orange drink	1	1	-	
Cheddar cheese	1	1	-	
Margarine	1	1	-	
Cream	1	1	-	
Plain chocolate flavour cake covering	1	1	-	
Ham and chicken roll	1	1	-	
Tomato Ketchup	1	1	-	
Creamed Horseradish	1	1	-	
Bread rolls	1	1	-	
Low fat soft cheese	1	1	-	
French Mustard	1	1	-	
Instant coffee	1	1	-	
Brown onion gravy with meat balls	1	1	-	
Sterilised cream	1	1	-	
Home made rum and butter fudge	2	-		2
Smoked pork sausage	1	1	-	
Real Cheddar Cheese Biscuits	1	1	-	
Cereal Breakfast	1	1	-	
Drinking chocolate	1	1	-	
Dairy Custard	1	1	-	
Beef Gravy with Meat Balls	1	1	-	
English Gooseberries	2	2	-	
Strawberries	2	2	-	
Potatoes	1	1	-	
New Zealand Lamb	1	1	-	
Lime juice cordial	1	1	-	
Lemon drink with glucose	1	1	-	
Orange drink	1	1	-	
Blackcurrant health drink	1	1	-	
Double cream	1	1	-	
Malt vinegar with caramel	1	1	-	
Liquid fruit pectin	1	1	-	
Instant coffee	1	1	-	
Ye Olde Farm Bread	1	1	-	
Madras Curry	1	1	-	
Soft Luxury Margarine	1	1	-	
English Cheddar Cheese	2	2	-	
Sausages in brine	1	1	-	
Sterilised half cream	1	1	-	
Lime marmalade	1	1	-	
Brawn	2	2	-	
Apple and plum jam	2	2	-	
Stilton blue cheese	1	1	-	
Beef chipolata sausages	1	1	-	
Corned beef	1	1	-	
Strawberry flavour drink	1	1	-	
Lemon barley water	1	1	-	
Marzipan	1	1	-	
Crisp toasted croutons	1	1	-	
Chicken paste	1	1	-	
Strawberry jam	1	1	-	
Strawberry jam	1	-		1
TOTAL	73	70		3

Milk Supplies

The Council's principal powers controlling local milk supplies relate to the conveyance and distribution of milk including the enforcement of preventive measures against the spread of milkborne disease.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is the statutory authority controlling milk production at dairy farms and the County Council is the authority for the issue of licences for pasteurising and sterilising plants and to dealers in specially designated milk.

The County Public Health Inspectorate frequently take samples of milk in the Borough which are submitted for testing to check efficiency of pasteurisation or sterilisation procedures, and their condition as regards bacterial activity, and for the presence of tubercle bacillus and brucella abortus.

Details of the registration of distributors and dairies other than dairy farms, in accordance with the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, are:-

Distributors registered	..	..	16
Dairies registered ..	..	..	1

Ice-Cream

There are 58 vendors of ice-cream in the Borough, 57 retailing prepacked ice-cream which is manufactured in bulk outside the Borough and one manufacturing and retailing his own cold mix ice-cream.

32 samples of ice-cream were obtained from vendors during the year, in order to assess the hygienic standards of manufacture, distribution and storage.

Results of Ice-Cream Samples

Grade	Mobiles				Premises			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Number	1	1	-	-	11	10	6	3

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations and General Inspections

CLASS OF PREMISES	No. of Premises newly registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year.	No. of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year.
OFFICES	4	25	25
RETAIL SHOPS	5	96	142
WHOLESALE SHOPS, WAREHOUSES	NIL	1	1
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, CANTEENS	1	23	31
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTALS	10	145	199

Number of visits of all kinds made to registered premises - 435.

Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. of Persons employed</u>
Offices	182
Retail Shops	344
Wholesale Dept., warehouses ..	2
Catering establishments open to the public	176
Canteens	Nil
Fuel storage depots ..	Nil
Total	704 (consists of 269 males and 435 females)

Analysis of Contraventions found

Section	No. of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	3
5	Overcrowding	-
6	Temperature	-
7	Ventilation	-
8	Lighting	1
9	Sanitary Convenience	-
10	Washing Facilities	-
11	Supply of drinking water	-
12	Clothes accommodation	-
13	Sitting facilities	-
14	Seats (sedentary workers)	-
15	Eating facilities	-
16	Floors, passages and stairs	1
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery	-
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
24	First Aid	2
	Other Matters	-
	TOTAL	7

Administration of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Premises newly registered during the year were inspected and revisits were made to premises at which contraventions had been found on previous visits. The co-operation of employers is usually forthcoming in remedying contraventions.

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Rodent Control work is carried out by an employee who also carries out certain duties on housing maintenance.

33 premises have entered into contracts with the Council and rodent control is carried out for an agreed quarterly or annual charge. All these premises are surveyed every six weeks, and if evidence of rat or mice infestation is discovered the required treatment is given.

Selected sections of the Borough's sewerage system were treated during the year.

A summary of the work carried out in the Borough during the year appears hereunder.

Total number of properties inspected following notification of infestation by rats/mice:-	631
Number infested by (1) Rats	131
(2) Mice	158
Total number of properties inspected for rats and /or mice for reasons other than notification (including contracts):-	1,008
Number infested by (1) Rats	136
(2) Mice	304

46 visits were made to Council owned land and premises (excluding Council houses) and 19 treatments for rats were carried out.

DISINFESTATION

141 Treatments were given for the clearance of wasps and hornets nests during the year. A standard charge of 38p. is made for this service.

The continued defacement of buildings and soiling of pavements by pigeons necessitated the continued use of traps. 37 Pigeons were trapped and were humanely destroyed by the use of carbontetrachloride.

CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

There are three principal sites in the Borough:-

1. Adjoining the Municipal Car Park on the Gloucester Road, a site previously operated by the Council has been leased to a private firm. The children's swimming pool has been converted into a toilet block with showers and laundry units. The site is licensed for 40 holiday caravans.
2. At the Odessa Inn, Gloucester Road, is a privately owned caravan site, licensed for eight residential caravans. Flush water closets, mains water and fire prevention equipment are provided on the site.
3. Close to the Abbey and the Town Centre, the Caravan Club have provided a caravan and camping site catering for approximately 70 touring caravan sites, and some camping sites. The site was opened in 1971 for Club Members only and from 1972 was available for general use.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One licence was issued during the year. Satisfactory conditions were maintained at the premises in accordance with the licence provisions.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no offensive trades established in the Borough.

RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

One upholsterer is registered under this Act.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936

Thirteen licences for the storage of petroleum spirit were issued during the year. Routine inspections and pressure tests of petroleum storage tanks ensure that licence conditions are complied with. Underground tanks at licensed premises are pressure tested using nitrogen during their fifteenth and twentieth year after installation and every second year thereafter.

Licence Conditions are based on the recommendations of the Model Code and the Association for Petroleum Act Administration.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1907

Section 94

THE PLEASURE BOATS (TEWKESBURY) ORDER, 1966

This Order came into force on 25th May, 1966, and empowers the Council to grant licences to owners of pleasure boats to be let for hire. In each case a certificate of a qualified boat engineer/surveyor that the vessel is in a sound mechanical and riverworthy condition is required. Compliance with other conditions concerning life jackets, fire prevention and sanitary condition is certified by this Department.

Sixteen applications for licences were approved during the year.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART 1

INSPECTIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OR PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

PREMISES		Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	-	-	-
(11)	Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	68	24	-	-
(111)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	2	2	-	-
TOTAL		71	26	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	<u>No. of Cases in which defects were found</u>				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness, S.1.	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding, S.2.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperatures, S.3.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation, S.4.	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors, S.6.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences, S.7.					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act, (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ..		1	1	-	-

PART 8

OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 and 134)

No reports of outworkers were received during the year.

